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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda*

PRIORITY THEMES

DEVELOPMENT: INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT; WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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Agreeing wholeheartedly with the interpretation given at the Seminar on the Integration of Women in Development, held at Vienna in 1991, that development to be total must include political, economic, social, cultural and other dimensions of human life,

Taking into account, as noted at the Inter-Agency Consultation on Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace (1995), which Consultation was held at Vienna in 1991, that the Commission on the Status of Women, by its resolution 35/4, decided that the programme of action should comprise only a limited number of issues,

Concerned that any further planning has to take place within the next three years,

Aware of the necessity for diversification from the present pattern, to create new employment opportunities for women,

Noting the need to act on the experiences and knowledge in local communities,

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The above-mentioned non-governmental organizations request Governments and development agencies:

To ensure that women are active partners in the process of furthering such development efficiently;

To involve local women, at all levels of society, who are familiar with the needs of their communities to ensure that due consideration is given to their opinions;

To create new employment and training opportunities for women, including the elderly and disabled, in industrial and high technology fields as well as traditional and other non-traditional fields with, wherever possible set gender percentage participation;

To review present training and employment practice with a view to furthering the advancement of women;

Further being aware of the important regional activities proposed they will:

Cooperate as fully as possible in the commissions and with national machineries;

Assist with public awareness programmes and encourage networking;

Continue to review and monitor progress on the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.